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Recently, I purchased a new car with XM Satellite radio and I was thrilled to find that XM offers a channel dedicated to instant traffic and weather here in Houston. Houston residents and visitors are familiar with our traffic problems and endless highway construction projects that can make the simple act of driving home from work each day a nightmare. Before I had XM satellite radio, I was forced to listen to endless advertisements on a scratchy AM station to hear traffic updates. No more, thanks to XM. The XM Instant Traffic and Weather Station was the first one I programmed into my radio's preset memory and I rely on it daily. Additionally, XM provides hundreds of channels offering a quality and variety of programming that is simply not available from terrestrial broadcast radio. It is well worth the cost of the subscription to hear music and viewpoints that I would not otherwise hear given the limited offerings available on conventional AM/FM Radio in the Houston area.

The petition presented to the FCC by the National Association of Broadcasters 04-160 should be rejected on the basis that XM subscribers have the right to receive the information services that they demand, such as local traffic and weather reports. In addition, it is anti-competitive to allow a lobbying group representing existing AM and FM broadcasters to dictate what services are available via competing satellite services.

I respectfully urge the FCC to reject the NAB's petition 04-160.

Sincerely,  
James Barrett  
Houston, TX